

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /081 W

----- 129605

O R 141235Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6341

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

FAA BRUSSELS

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LONDON FOR RAY SEITZ AND AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, EAIR, CASC, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: CESSNA AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS DETAINED IN NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 201547 (B) LAGOS 9026 (NOTAL) (C) LAGOS 9156 (NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTED DEMARCHE  
TO MEA AUGUST 5. ZAIRIAN NOTE APOLOGIZED FOR OVERFLIGHT, BUT  
EXPLAINED THAT FERRYING COMPANY HAD NOT GIVEN ZAIRE GOVT.  
SUFFICIENT NOTICE OF PLANES DEPARTURE, RESULTING IN GOZ FAILURE  
TO SEEK PROPER CLEARANCE. NOTE ATTEMPTED EXONERATE PILOTS,  
SAYING THAT THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING  
THEY DID NOT HAVE CLEARANCE. NOTE ALSO REQUESTED SPEEDY RELEASE  
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OF PLANES SO THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE TO ZAIRE. MEA HAS TO

OUR KNOWLEDGE NOT YET ANSWERED NOTE.

2. CONSULAR OFFICER FROM BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMM.,  
IBADAN VISITED PILOTS AT BENIN CITY AUGUST 8, BRITISH REPORT  
PILOTS WELL TAKEN CARE OF, MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN THEY WERE  
WHEN CONOFF FIRST VISITED THEM. BRITISH CONOFF VISITING PILOTS  
AGAIN WEEKEND OF 14-15 AUGUST.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH NIGERIA POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICER  
AT BENIN CITY AUGUST 8, BRITISH CONOFF ARGUED FOR ALLOWING  
PLANES TO BE FLOWN TO PORT HARCOURT (EACH PILOT TO BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY ARMED POLICEMAN IN COCKPIT) WHERE THEY COULD BE PROPERLY  
MAINTAINED PENDING RESOLUTION OF CASE. SPECIAL BRANCH MAN SEEMED  
IMPRESSED BY ARGUMENTS AND SAID HE WOULD BRING THEM UP WITH HIS  
SUPERVISORS IN LAGOS (PRESUMABLY WEEK OF 9-13 AUGUST).

4. LESS ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER, IS BRITISH REPORT OF CONTACT WITH  
HIGH SPECIAL BRANCH (OR NIGERIAN SECURITY ORGANIZATION) OFFICIAL  
IN LAGOS, WHO IMPLIED PILOTS WOULD BE CHARGED WITH CONSIDERABLY  
MORE THAN VIOLATING AIR SPACE. /NEW NIGERIAN/ AUGUST 14 CARRIES  
LONG ARTICLE ON INCIDENT, ENTITLED "RECONNAISSANCE MISSION BY  
FOREIGN PLANES OVER NIGERIAN AIRSPACE," SAYS UGHELLI AFFAIR IMPLIES  
"GRAVE THREAT" TO NATIONAL SECURITY. ANOTHER ARTICLE IN SAME  
PAPER SAYS MATTER MAY GO TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL "AS IT  
AFFECTS THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY."

5. IF EFFORTS BY ZAIRIANS AND BRITISH PRODUCE NO RESULTS OVER  
WEEKEND, EMBASSY WILL CONSIDER REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG EARLY  
NEXT WEEK.

CAHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT DETENTION, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, PILOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS09371  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760313-0607  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760853/aaaabtwq.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 201547, 76 LAGOS 9026, 76 LAGOS 9156  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CESSNA AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS DETAINED IN NIGERIA  
**TAGS:** CGEN, EAIR, CASC, PINS, NI, CG, CESSNA  
**To:** STATE COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
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